

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2, 3, and 13 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Please amend Claim 1 as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable battery which includes a plurality of connected cells, comprising:

a first electrode configured to extract electric power from the battery; and

a second electrode which is different from said first electrode and is configured to charge and discharge each of said plurality of cells individually; and

a switch configured to series connect said plurality of cells when the battery is not attached to a charger such that electric power can be extracted from the series-connected plurality of cells through said first electrode, and configured to electrically separate said plurality of cells from one another when the battery is attached to the charger such that each of said plurality of cells can be charged individually by the charger through said second electrode.

2 to 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The battery according to claim 1, wherein the battery is a battery pack in which said plurality of cells are assembled.

13. (Cancelled)